

Calendar No. 1250

68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE .

{ REPORT
No. 1180

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF ABANDONED AND UNUSED LIGHTHOUSE RESERVATION LANDS

FEBRUARY 17 (calendar day, FEBRUARY 19), 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WILLIS, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 4161]

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4161) authorizing the transfer of abandoned and unused lighthouse reservation lands and buildings to States, counties, or municipalities for public park purposes, and authorizing the transfer of lighthouse reservation lands and buildings in exchange for other real property, and for other purposes, have considered the same and report thereon with amendments, and as so amended recommend that the bill do pass.

The bill has the approval of the Department of Commerce, as will appear by the annexed communication.

Page 3, line 6, strike out all of section 3.

Line 16, strike out "4" and insert "3."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
Washington, February 9, 1925.

HON. WESLEY L. JONES,
United States Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR: In accordance with your request I submit for the consideration of the Committee on Commerce the following information relative to the views of the department with reference to bill S. 4161, authorizing the transfer of abandoned and unused lighthouse reservation lands and buildings to States, counties, or municipalities for public-park purposes and authorizing the transfer of lighthouse reservation lands and buildings in exchange for other real property, and for other purposes.

The department considers that this legislation is very desirable in the way of offsetting special acts authorizing the transfer of real estate of no further use to the Lighthouse Service. Recent acts authorizing the transfer of such property are as follows:

The act of June 3, 1924 (Public No. 183), authorizing the transfer of the Point of Woods Range, Mich., to Mr. Robert P. Hudson for other lands in that vicinity.

The act of June 28, 1916 (39 Stat. 239), authorizing the transfer of the Schooner Ledge Range Front Lighthouse Reservation, Pa., to Messrs. Johnson & Vaucrain in exchange for other lands.

The act of June 7, 1924 (Public No. 252), authorizing the transfer of the Lloyd Harbor Lighthouse Reservation, N. Y., and a portion of the Fire Island Lighthouse Reservation, N. Y., to the State of New York for public-park purposes.

A bill (H. R. 9537) introduced in Congress at the last session to authorize the transfer of a portion of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Reservation, Mich., to the city of Port Huron, Mich., which has so far failed to pass.

When the transfer of any such property is sought the department is called upon for an expression of its views, and the opinion of the department is based upon the question as to whether the property is further required for the purposes of the Bureau of Lighthouses, and such terms and conditions as are indicated by the department as being desirable have been incorporated in the acts in separate cases.

The proposed legislation would enable the department to expedite action in these cases and, particularly under the last clause of the bill, to make the necessary adjustments of property holdings with private owners as is frequently desired to provide more suitable, accessible, or useful sites. In those cases it is frequently difficult to carry out such a purpose if a delay occurs due to seeking a special act.

Very truly yours,

J. WALTER DRAKE,
Assistant Secretary of Commerce.